Chapter 2. General Policy Provisions

## IC 31-10-2-1

## Policy and purpose

- Sec. 1. It is the policy of this state and the purpose of this title to:
  - (1) recognize the importance of family and children in our society;
  - (2) recognize the responsibility of the state to enhance the viability of children and family in our society;
  - (3) acknowledge the responsibility each person owes to the other;
  - (4) strengthen family life by assisting parents to fulfill their parental obligations;
  - (5) ensure that children within the juvenile justice system are treated as persons in need of care, protection, treatment, and rehabilitation;
  - (6) remove children from families only when it is in the child's best interest or in the best interest of public safety;
  - (7) provide for adoption as a viable permanency plan for children who are adjudicated children in need of services;
  - (8) provide a juvenile justice system that protects the public by enforcing the legal obligations that children have to society and society has to children;
  - (9) use diversionary programs when appropriate;
  - (10) provide a judicial procedure that:
    - (A) ensures fair hearings;
    - (B) recognizes and enforces the legal rights of children and their parents; and
    - (C) recognizes and enforces the accountability of children and parents;
  - (11) promote public safety and individual accountability by the imposition of appropriate sanctions; and
  - (12) provide a continuum of services developed in a cooperative effort by local governments and the state.

As added by P.L.1-1997, SEC.2. Amended by P.L.35-1998, SEC.3.